

was wearing thigh boots, and went straight after her, getting her when the water was within two inches of his boot tops, and before the spider had done any damage.

I have never known a night like this for *gigantellus*: the next year my late friend L. T. Ford, who wanted it badly, came over and on a hot, calm night the three of us (Ford, my son and myself) stayed out until 2 a.m., but only got about a score between us.

The females of this group, *gigantellus*, *forficellus* and *mucronella*, must be killed on the spot as they almost invariably knock themselves to bits in pill boxes, particularly damaging the points of their peculiarly shaped fore-wings. The males I have always found quite safe. Another insect of which the males are quiet but the females most restless is *Bactra furfurana* Haw. The worst of all I know is *Laspeyresia grossana* Haw. The first time I found this moth, I took 16, to make sure of a dozen, and on my return home two hours later, only a couple were fit to set.

65 Eastwood Boulevard, Westcliff on Sea. 22.v.1968.

The Larval Habits of *Pseudococcyx posticana* Zett. (Lep. Tortricina)

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Certain species which used to be taken regularly by earlier generations of entomologists come to be regarded as rarities. Sometimes this is not due to their becoming genuinely scarce, but is because the knowledge of when, where and how to find them has been forgotten. I suspect that this is the case with *Pseudococcyx posticana* Zett., for, having learnt what to look for in Essex, I readily found it in Suffolk and Surrey as well. Yet none of my microlepidopterist friends seems to have first-hand acquaintance with the moth.

The Forestry Commission kindly grant me a permit to collect in one of their woods near Saffron Walden. As this was due for renewal, I spent the afternoon of the 24th March of this year examining their plantations of young Scotch firs so as to report any species which might be of interest to the Commission. After a long and almost fruitless search, I noticed a slightly discoloured flower-bud, and, on breaking it off, found that it contained a larva. There were six others on the same tree, two of them containing pupae, and the remainder larvae ready to pupate. At this stage the tenanted buds were extremely difficult to detect, and a second visit a few days later proved time-consuming and unrewarding. I therefore postponed operations until the 19th of April. By this time the buds aborted by the *posticana* larvae were easy enough to find, being small in size and of lack-lustre brown coloration, as contrasted with the bright *buoliana*-orange and swelling dimensions of the healthy growth. In some instances, the needles at the tip of the branch were beginning to wilt: those fully dead were due to old workings or other causes.

The affected buds were mostly situated from two to five feet from the ground on young trees about twelve feet in height. A single tree would harbour several larvae, and there would be a gap of perhaps twenty trees before the next batch. The larvae eat out the heart of the bud

and the extreme tip of the stem behind it. Prior to pupation they nibble an exit hole in the stem just below the bud, which becomes sealed with white resin; the larva pupates head inwards. The date of emergence of my specimens was from the 20th of April to the 4th of May, possibly having been slightly accelerated through the pupae being kept indoors. Thus the optimum date to search for the pupae is a brief period in mid-April.

As far as I can judge, the moth does no damage, since it only temporarily inhibits the flowering of a lower spray, without impairing the upward growth of the tree.

Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 18.v.1968.

Notes and Observations

TELPHUSA ALBURNELLA DUP. (GELECHIINAE) IN HERTFORDSHIRE.—I collected, on two occasions, during the first two weeks of May 1968 larval spinings amongst leaves and shoots of birch (*Betula* spp.) on Bricket Wood Common. During the ensuing weeks there emerged several specimens of *Anacampsis blattariella* Hübn. and on the 29th June a single specimen of *Telphusa alburnella* Dup. This is a new area in which I have found this species; the others being Stanmore Common, Middlesex, and Scratch Wood, Middlesex. Nearly all the larval spinings were gathered from a group of saplings. Unfortunately, I did not pay close enough attention to individual larvae, and am uncertain as yet of the habits of the larva of *T. alburnella*.—E. S. BRADFORD, 38 Oakwood Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts. 4.viii.1968.

MIGRANTS IN HEREFORDSHIRE, 1967-68.—On 1st July this year, I had an example of *Plusia ni* Hübn. in my trap in Ledbury, and on the following night I discovered two specimens of *Eublemna parva* Hübn. in my previous night's catch. All these specimens were not in the best condition, and it is interesting to note that their arrival followed the North African dust storm which occurred during the early morning hours of 1st July; a little of this dust fell patchily in the Ledbury district the same morning.

Last year I was fortunate to see a specimen of the Pyralid moth *Uresiphita gilvata* Fab. (*polygonalis* Hübn.) on 9th October 1967, also in the trap, while on 21st September 1967, a fresh and very fine specimen of *Acherontia atropos* L. was found sitting on the brickwork of my house, twenty yards from the trap.—Dr. M. W. HARPER, Cotham, Upperfields, Ledbury, Herefordshire. 13.vii.1968.

OBSELETE FORMS OF THE LYCAENIDAE (LEP.) IN DORSET.—Over the Whitsun holiday this year I was fortunate in capturing three obsolete varieties of this family during a visit to Dorset.

The first specimen was taken at Hod Hill at about mid-day on Saturday, 1st June, having examined in the region of sixty *Aricia agestis* Schiff. (brown argus), I was particularly delighted to take a perfect, though not very extreme, male *obsoleta* form of this species. That evening I paid a visit to Ballard Down, near Swanage, and was amazed to find such large numbers of blues settled on the long grass bents at the foot of the Down, a good proportion of them being *Lysandra bellargus* Rott. (Adonis blue). Despite a long search amongst this species, nothing in the way of a variety was seen. However, during that time I took an extreme male *obsoleta*